

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

March 2012 Edition

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Welcome!

Welcome to the latest edition of my newsletter highlighting informational programs, services and area events happening throughout our District Two community and Howard County.

Know of any great community events? Please share them with my office so that I may review them for inclusion in this newsletter!

For your convenience, I have included towards the end of this edition opportunities on how you can get involved in our community

through volunteering or participating on County Boards.

Please feel free to share this Bulletin with friends, neighbors, and community organizations. If you don't already receive this bulletin directly and would like to subscribe, email me at cball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

Councilmember Calvin Ball Hosts 6th annual Money Matters Fair!

Howard County Councilmember Calvin Ball is hosting his 6th annual Money Matters Fair **Saturday March 31, 2012 10am-1pm** at the East Columbia Branch Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way. This event is a kick-off to Financial Education Month in April and will feature a fun-filled line-up of activities to learn smart ways to stretch youth money! The fair includes FREE tax preparation (regardless of income or how complex your return may be), FREE credit reports, FREE confidential document shredding, Mind Your Pennies with Buck for kids, Y-Fi interactive activities for teens, information about personal finance and retirement and details on financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

The Money Matters Fair is co-sponsored by Howard Community College, the Howard County Library, the Howard County Public School System, makingCHANGE and Friends of the Howard County Library. For more details, call **Kimberly Pruim** at **410-313-2001** or visit www.hclibrary.org/moneymatters.



Long Reach Village Elections!

Three Village Board positions will be filled at the annual Long Reach election on Saturday, April, 2012. Nominations will begin **March 1-21, 2012**. Candidates must be owners or lease-holding tenants of properties in Long Reach and file a Nomination Petition no later than **March 21, 2012 at noon**. Petitions on election information can be picked up at Stonehouse beginning **March 1, 2012**.

** Election Committee members are needed. Call Stonehouse for more information at **410-730-8113**.

Girl Power: Reach for the Stars!

On **Sunday, March 11, 2012** Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab will host a free introduction to careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Entitled "Girl Power; Reach for the Stars", this event is geared towards middle and high school students and will take place from **3-5pm** on APL's Laurel Campus in the **Kossiakoff Center**. No registration is required. For more details, call **443-778-6125**.



Soup'r Sunday!

The Horizon Councils and Rotary Clubs of Howard County are hosting the 4th annual Soup'r Sundae family event featuring soups and ice cream sundaes as a fundraiser for the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center. Come out and show your support on **Sunday, March 11 12-2pm** at **Wilde Lake High School, 5460 Trumpeter Rd.**

Admission is \$20 per adult, \$5 for children under 12. There will also be music and arts & crafts for children. For more details, email CathyVSmith@verizon.net.

Silas Craft Collegians at Hunan Manor!



Come out and support a great cause! On **Monday, March 12, 2012 5-8pm**, Howard Community College Educational Foundation and the Hunan Manor Restaurant cordially invite you to the 13th annual gourmet Chinese buffet to benefit the Silas Craft Collegians Scholarship Endowment. The dinner buffet will be served continuously from 5-8pm.

Tickets are \$40 per person and the Silas Craft Collegians Endowment receives 100% of the proceeds from the ticket sales to the event. For more info or to purchase tickets, call the HCC development office at **443-518-1970** or visit www.howardcc.edu/sccathunan.

2nd Annual Fabulous Moms: Women's Small Business Expo and Conference!

Sell and promote your product and service, network with amazing mompreneurs and learn from the most talented, experienced and forward professionals in business. This event will be held from **March 16-18, 2012** at the Arundel Mills Mall and the Hilton BWI in Maryland. For more details, visit <http://fabulousmomsexpo.com>.

Howard Community College Job/Career Fair!

The 2012 Spring Job/Career Fair will be held on **Friday, March 16, 2012** from 10am-1pm in the Burrill Galleria of the Clark Library Building at Howard Community College. Job seekers, both students and non-students are invited to attend.

For details on participating employers, call **443-518-1000** or visit http://www.howardcc.edu/students/counseling_career_services_and_job_assistance/jobsearch/jobfaircompanies.html

Nominations Sought for Excellence in Programs for Children!

Do you know people or programs that make a positive impact on the lives of our Howard County children? Plan to nominate them for recognition at the 13th annual "Celebrating Successes for Children" ceremony. The award honors people, programs or businesses that make a difference and serve children in one of the following categories: Infants and Toddlers (0-3 yrs), Preschool age (3-5yrs), Elementary-Age (Kindergarten through 5th), Middle School-Age (6th through 8th grade), High School-Age (9th through 12th grade), Mixed age group (person or program that works with children of different ages), Outstanding Youth Award (an individual under 18 who has made a difference for children), Family-friendly Business Award (a Howard County business – NOT child care – that stands out because of its policies or services to children and families).

While an individual nominee does not have to be a resident of Howard County, he or she must serve Howard County children; however, program or business nominees must be located in Howard County. The nomination deadline is **Friday, March 16, 2012**. For more details, email PKung@howardcountymd.gov or call **410-313-1940**.

2nd Annual Citizens' Budget Hearing For FY13!

Join County Executive Ken Ulman in his second **Citizens' Budget Hearing** for the Fiscal Year 2013 on **Wednesday, March 17** at 7pm in the Banneker Room of the **George Howard Building**, 3430 Courthouse Drive in Ellicott City.

Residents may sign up to speak online at www.howardcountymd.gov/budgettestimony.htm, or they may offer an online testimony with regards to the budget at the same link. Residents who do not wish to sign up online are welcomed to sign up in-person on the night of the Hearing beginning at 6 pm.

An interpreter for the deaf will be available, if requested, seven days before the event at **410-313-6400**. For more info, please call **410-313-2022**.

Workforce Innovation Fund Solicitation for Grant Applications!

The Department of Labor has released the Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF) Solicitation for Grant Applications. This SGA announces the availability of approximate \$98.5 million in WIF grants. These funds support innovative approaches to the design and delivery of employment and training services that generate long-term improvements in the performance of the public workforce system, both in terms of outcomes for job seeker and employer customers and cost-effectiveness. Grants made under the WIF will provide funds to states and local workforce areas to a) retool service delivery strategies and/or policy and administrative systems and processes to improve outcomes for workforce system customers and b) evaluate the effectiveness of such activities. ETA expects the fund approximately 20-30 grants; individual grant amounts will range from \$1 million to \$12 million. The closing date for applications will be **March, 22, 2012**.



For more details, visit http://www.doleta.gov/workforce_innovation/.

Collision Avoidance Training Announcement

The Howard County Police Department announces its 2012 Collision Avoidance Training (CAT) with classes beginning **March 23-24** and continuing through December.

The CAT is an advance defensive driving program devoted to vehicle control and safety behind the wheel. It's open to licensed teenaged drivers age 16-20 years old. The two-day program will provide young drivers with knowledge of evasive maneuvers, emergency braking, cornering, backing, reverse serpentine, and off-road recovery through in-class instruction and behind-the-wheel training in a safe environment.

The cost to each student is \$95. Contact **Carolyn Bennett** at **Howard County Police Department, Special Operations Bureau**, 11226 Scaggsville Road Laurel, MD 20723 with questions.

Celebration of the Arts Gala!

Come Celebrate with us – enjoy a reception including culinary delights from area restaurants and caterers, bid on fabulous works of art by local artists and enjoy performances throughout the Grand Hall and Studio Theatre. This event will be held on **Saturday, March 24, 6-10pm** at the Peter and Elizabeth Horwitz Visual and Performing Arts Center, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia. For more details, call **410-313-2787** or visit www.hocoarts.org.

Thank you for your patience!

A project to replace a failing water main along Meadowridge Rd from US1 to 1,000ft north of Old Stockbridge Dr in ElkrIDGE has begun. Construction will take place **weekdays 8am-4pm** and should be completed by early **March 2012**, weather permitting. For questions or concerns on **Capital Project W-8249**, call **Lisa Brightwell** at **410-313-3440**.

Candidates Sought for CA Village Board Positions!

Each April, residents living on Columbia Association (CA)-assessed property elect residents of their village to represent them on the CA Board of Directors/their village community association board. This year, the following villages will have open seats on the CA Board: Harper's Choice, Hickory Ridge, Oakland Mills, Owen Brown, Town Center and Wilde Lake.

On Election Day, **Saturday, April 21st**, each village will host individual elections. Deadlines for candidates are quickly approaching. To learn more about board leadership opportunities, as well as various other volunteering opportunities, visit www.ColumbiaAssociation.org/Leadership-Opportunities.

Inter-County Broadband Network's Community Anchor Symposium!

Are you a teacher, school administrator, doctor, nurse, firefighter or police officer? Do you represent a county anchor institution in central Maryland? If so, then be sure to register for the One Maryland Inter-County Broadband Network (ICBN) Community Anchor Symposium. This FREE end-user event will be held on **Monday, March 26** from **7:30am-3:30pm** at the **John Hopkins APL, Kossiakoff Center, 11100 John Hopkins Road** in Laurel. For more details, contact **Molly Jackson** at MJackson@howardcountymd.gov or call **410-313-1165** or **Tina Sheehy** at Tina@FBCInc.com.

Family First Parenting Workshop Offering Parenting Tips!

Join us for a special series designed for parents and guardians raising children from birth to age 8. Learn about child development, how to encourage self-esteem and good behavior, positive guidance and discipline and how to keep children safe and healthy. Classes meet **6:15-8:15pm** every other **Thursday, February 16-April 16** at **The Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way** in Columbia. It's \$5 per class. Financial assistance may be available. Each class, offered in an interactive group format, will include practical tips and advice for handling common situations, as well as hands-on activities. Participants who complete all 6 classes will receive a Certificate of Completion. To learn more call **410-313-1940**

Elementary Curricular Advisory Committee Needs You!

The ECAC seeks parents of elementary students to serve on the committee. The ECAC provides input to elementary curriculum office and fosters positive communication and partnerships among families, the community and the HCPSS regarding elementary programs and initiatives.

ECAC 2011-2012 Meeting dates are Tuesdays 4:30-6pm (December 13, 2011, January 10, 2012, March 13, 2012, May 1, 2012). Contact Nancy Dickson at 410-313-1538 to learn more.

Journey 2012 Is Accepting Applications for Summer Program!

The Women's Giving Circle (WGC) of Howard County is accepting applications for its residential summer camp, Journey 2012. Journey 2012 will accept applications from girls entering 8th or 9th grade in the fall of 2012. Applicants can be from all public, private, or home schools, but must reside in Howard County. As has been since its inception, Journey will be operated by Maryland Leadership Workshops (MLW).

At the camp, girls will learn empowerment, motivation, self-awareness, decision-making skills, group-dynamics, and self-awareness, goal-setting, and conflict-resolution. The cost is \$600, and financial aid requests must be postmarked by **March 30**. For further information, send an email to journeydirector@gmail.com.

Howard County Foundation for Black Educational and Cultural Achievement Scholarships Available!

The Howard County Foundation for Black Educational and Cultural Achievement, Inc. is primarily a scholarship awarding organization. Started as a group of concerned African American parents for education, the Howard County Foundation for Black Educational and Cultural Achievement (HCFBECA), Inc.'s primary purpose is to provide scholarship support to African American students of Howard County.

Nominations for Howard County's Sports Hall of Fame Sought!

The Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks has announced that nomination forms are available for its 2012 "Community Sports Hall of Fame," which recognizes outstanding individuals who have gained prominence in recreational sports in Howard County.

Athletes, coaches, managers, league officials, or even behind the scenes contributors can be nominated. Nominees must be residents of Howard County or have made their contribution to sports majorly in Howard County.

Nomination forms are available online at www.hcrpsports.com or by calling the Department of Rec. and Parks at 410-313-4711. Nominations should be postmarked by **Friday, April 13, 2012** to Howard County Community Sports Hall of Fame, 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21045.

Anti-Bullying Seminar!

Join the PTA Council on **April 26, 2012** for its 2012 Anti-Bullying Seminar, which the council will be co-sponsoring with the School System. This will be a great opportunity for parents, students, and teachers to educate themselves on effective techniques to deal with and prevent bullying.

For more information, contact **Carletta** at safety@ptachc.org.

Financial Education Classes!

The Howard County Financial Education Alliance and the Maryland CASH Academy have joined together to bring FREE financial education classes to Howard County. Classes are taught by experienced professionals from public, private and non-profit sectors. There are no sales and no strings attached... just information to help you maximize your money. Below is a list of classes being offered all of which are held at the North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road in North Laurel.

- **Saturday, March 17, 2012:** Basics of Money Management 10-11am
- **Wednesday, March 21, 2012:** Credit and Borrowing, 5:30-6:30pm
- **Wednesday, March 28, 2012:** Basics of Investing, 4-5pm
- **Thursday April, 5, 2012:** Foundations of Money Management, 5-7pm
- **Thursday, April 12, 2012:** Foundations of Money Management, 5-7pm

Although no registration is required, we highly recommend that you reserve your seat. Please do so by visiting www.mdcashacademy.org or by calling 410-528-8006.

Children's Discovery Fair!

Stop by for a celebration for young children ages 3-5 years old and their families for free hands-on activities relating to school readiness including interactive games, songs, crafts and stories. This event is scheduled for **Saturday, April 14, 2012 from 10am-1pm** at the **East Columbia Branch Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way** in Columbia. For more information, call the Office of Children's Services at 410-313-1940 or email [Debbie Yare at DYare@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:DYare@howardcountymd.gov).

"Come Home to Howard County" Housing Fair!



This premier event showcases everything individuals and families who currently live in or outside the County need to know about buying or renting a home in Howard County. The Fair, to be held on **Saturday, April 14, 2012 from 10am-2pm**, will offer attendees the chance to talk one-on-one with mortgage lenders, homebuilders and remodelers, housing specialists, real estate experts and County personnel. There will also be educational workshops, hands-on seminars and give-a-ways.

The event is located at **Long Reach High School, 6101 Old Dobbin Road** in Columbia. For more details, call 410-313-6320.

4th Annual GreenFest!

Back for its 4th consecutive year, this FREE event will be held on **Saturday, April 14, 2012 from 10am-4pm** at **Howard Community College, Burrill Galleria, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway** in Columbia. There will be something for all ages and will feature exhibits, demonstrations, activities and practical tips for easy ways to "green" your home, workplace and lifestyle. For more info, visit www.hcgreenfest.org or call **Lindsay DeMarzo** at 410-313-4373.



Vendor applications are now being accepted and are available online at www.hcgreenfest.org.

Bowling For a Change!

On **Saturday, April 21, 2012**, join the Arc of Howard County's "Bowling for a Change". This event will be held at the **Brunswick Columbia Lanes 7-9pm**. Teams of 4-6 bowlers can register to participate. The goal is to raise a minimum of \$500 per team from friends and associates who want to support them and The Arc. Individuals can also register separately and will be put on a team. Lane sponsorships are available at \$100 each.

Proceeds benefit The Arc of Howard County's vocational and residential support and services, respite care and other programs and services for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For more info, call **Kathy Swanson** at 410-730-0638 x 306.

Hope for Hopeless 5K Run!

Howard County Councilmember Calvin Ball in partnership with Mid-Maryland Baptist Association will host a Hope for Hopeless 5K run and 1 mile Fun Walk on **Saturday, May 5** at Rockburn Park in Elkridge. Proceeds will benefit the Route 1 Day Center. Registration is \$20 before 4/15 and \$30 after 4/15. For details or to register, visit www.hopeforhopeless5k.com or call 410-549-7156.

Route 1 Day Center Needs Supplies!

The Day Resource Center relies on donations and volunteers to make meaningful contributions to the lives of those they serve. Please consider by helping by donating the following items that are in short supply: Batteries, men's underwear, men's jeans, thermal socks, bottled water – 20oz size, Gatorade, peanut butter and jelly, tuna, canned chicken, chef Boyardee-15oz can, spaghetti-15oz can, chunky soups, dinty moore beef stew, baked beans with meat, underwood deviled ham, libby's canned corned beef, Vienna sausages, spam, beef jerky and canned fruit.

There are also volunteer opportunities at the Center and outside the Center. Please check their website for current lists of supply and volunteer needs at www.daycenter.org.

Save the Date... Councilmember Calvin Ball Hosts 4th annual Men's Health Fair!

Are you interested in taking charge of your health? Haven't been to the doctor recently or without insurance and looking for free health screenings? On **Saturday, June 9, 2012 10am-2pm**, Howard County Councilmember Calvin Ball will partner with Howard County General Hospital to host his annual Men's Health Fair at Howard High School. Are you interested in becoming an exhibitor? If so, contact **Kimberly Pruim** at **410-313-2001** for more details.

Columbia Home Tour Seeks Distinct Homes to Showcase!

The Columbia Home Tour is now seeking distinct Columbia homes to showcase at the third annual event to be held on **Sunday, June 3, 2012 from 11am-5pm**. Homeowners will be asked to open their doors to allow participants to embark upon a self-guided tour. Homes of any size or style with diverse architecture or unique characteristics are sought. Nominations including self-nominations are welcome!

For more information, contact **Carol Hobelmann** at **410-730-3987** or email wlevents@columbiavillages.org.

Equal Business Opportunity Initiative!

Howard County Government is committed in fostering a strong socio-economic environment by promoting diversity and inclusiveness in its purchasing activities. To this effect, the County's Equal Business Opportunity Program is designed to enhance opportunities and increase participation of minority, woman and disabled business enterprises. For more information on how your business can benefit from this program, contact **Mahesh Sabnani**, Equal Business Opportunity Coordinator, Office of Purchasing at **410-313-3694**. Mr. Sabnani will be pleased to provide your business with guidance, assistance and direction.

"Your Local Career Connection" Helps In Your Search For Employment!

Howard County's Office of Workforce Development is here for you! The center is geared towards meeting the workforce and employment needs of businesses and job seekers in the 21st century labor market. They provide companies and individuals ranging from professional, technical and managerial to entry level. It offers residents a variety of tools to aid in a job search. The full service center is equipped with computers, fax machines, telephones, internet access and copiers – all to assist you with your employment search. Customized recruitment events are held for businesses and space is available to use for interviewing.

For more details, visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=1863> or call **410-290-2620**. The calendar of events is online at <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/county/howard/howcal.shtml>.

FREE Career Advancement and Computer Training for Adults!

Find a job or move up in your current position! This opportunity is **FREE** for low- to moderate-income residents of Howard County. Registration is **Mondays 10am-2pm** or by appointment and is located at Pinnacle Career Resources, Chartwell Professional Park, 8180 Lark Brown Road, Suite 301 in Elkridge. For more details, call Cindy at **410-799-1097**.

Share Your Opinion on the 2012-2013 HCPSS Calendar!

The HPSS Calendar Committee is currently developing a calendar proposal for the 2012-2013 school year. Your input is very important in the process, especially when changes are under consideration. Take a brief moment to share your thoughts by answering a few questions on the survey. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PR2B2ST>.

Vacancies on Howard County's Boards and Commissions

Howard County Government is actively seeking volunteers to serve on the following Boards and Commissions: Commission on Disability Issues, Animal Matters Hearing Board, Board of Social Services, Commission on Aging, the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Advisory Board and the Consumer Affairs Advisory Board. Below you will find details including information on how to apply.

- **Alcohol & Drug Abuse Advisory Board.** Board members serve five year terms and help review services and the need for services relating to alcohol or drug abuse education, treatment and prevention in Howard County. Candidates must be 18yrs or older, have an interest in drug and alcohol treatment and prevention services and be able to attend the Board's meetings on the third Wednesday of each month from 5:15-6:30pm. For details, call **410-313-6225**.
- **Board of Social Services.** Board members serve three year terms and provide advice on the application and formulation of state policies, procedures and programs that apply to Howard County and to evaluate the local director of the Department of Social Services. Candidates must be Howard County residents, 18yrs or older, have an interest in social services, and be able to attend the Board's meetings held the third Monday of each month at 4pm in the Department of Social Services Conference Room, 7121 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia. For details, call **410-872-8767**.
- **Commission on Aging.** Commission members serve five year terms and represent diverse professional backgrounds, various age and ethnic groups and different geographic areas throughout the county. The Commission works with the Office on Aging to plan activities, researches county and state legislation that would impact the health and wellbeing of older adults and their families and provides testimony when appropriate. Candidates must be Howard County residents, 18yrs or older, have an interest in promoting successful aging for older adults in Howard County and be able to attend the Commission's meetings held the last Monday of each month at 7pm at the Ellicott City Senior Center, 9401 Frederick Road. For details, call **410-313-6410**.
- **Commission on Disability Issues.** Commission members serve five year terms. It is comprised of 15 voting members who include people with disabilities, service providers, family members of people with disabilities and the community-at-large. The Commission advises Howard County Government on issues affecting people with disabilities and also provides guidance and recommendations on Americans with Disabilities Act compliance. It also advises on the needs, unmet needs and gaps in such areas as housing, transportation, recreation, employment, education, community services, treatment, rehabilitation and related matters, which may preclude the full integration of persons who have full disabilities into the community. For details, call **410-313-6402**.
- **Consumer Affairs Advisory Board.** Board members serve five year terms and are responsible for reviewing the Office of Consumer Affairs programs, holding public hearings as deemed necessary and making recommendations to the Office on how it may better carry out its duties. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must be Howard County residents, 18 years of age or older, have an interest in consumer issues and be able to attend the Board's meetings which are held the third Wednesday of each month from 7-9pm at the Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way in Columbia.

Applicants should send a resume and a brief letter explaining why they want to serve to: Howard County Government, Department of County Administration, Attn: Susan Smith-Bauk, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

CAC's Weatherization Program Changes Eligibility Requirements to

The Community Action Council administers the Weatherization program for the State of Maryland. Recently, the State has changed the eligibility criteria for the program to include moderate income families. As such, the program is no longer only targeting low income families. Based upon the new guidelines, many friends and family members might be eligible for this wonderful **FREE** service.

Is your home energy efficient? Determine if you are eligible for **FREE** weatherization services. Maximum family income for eligibility is as follows:

Family Size	Gross Monthly Income
1	\$4,079
2	\$4,663
3	\$5,242
4	\$5,821
5	\$6,292

Applications are available online at http://cac-hc.org/cac_howtoapplyweatherization.htm. For more info, call **410-313-1181**.

Make a Difference In a Student's Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to Howard County public school students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Deep Run, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook and Stevens Forest. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chaya Kaplan at aokmentor@gmail.com or call 410-730-6030.

Calling All Youth... Voices for Change Youth Coalition Seeks Your Help!

Are you interested in making positive change in your community by working on issues important to you? Would you like to get to know other students from high schools around the county? Would you like to be a part of the team of students and adults that organize the annual Youth Summit? Then Voices for Change Youth Coalition is for you!

General Student Membership is limited to Howard County high school students (public, private and/or home school) and Howard County 8th grade students (public, private and/or home school). Students must be in good standing with their respective school to be eligible. Active membership is defined as participating in at least 60% of the total meetings throughout the year. Meetings are twice a month on alternating Tuesdays from 5-7pm and dinner is provided. Meetings are held at HC Recreation & Parks located at 7120 Oakland Mills Road in Columbia. For more details, check out the website at www.HCYouth.org or contact Meg Mekelburg at MMekelburg7@verizon.net.

BRAC Corner!

Are you a business owner interested in becoming a contractor or already a Defense Contractor looking for additional information?

The BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) is inviting businesses interested in accessing government contracting opportunities and becoming a qualified prime or sub-contractor to register with the BBI's new Match-Up Database. A number of defense contractors and government agencies are already using the Match-Up Database to determine which BBI businesses may possess the capabilities they require. Many companies registered in the Database have already been selected to meet with large prime contractors to partner and increase business.

The database is **FREE** of charge and open to all local companies interested in generating more business within the defense community. The Match-Up Database can be found at <http://www.selfvetting.com/events/BBI/APL/> and registering in the database automatically makes a company a member of the BBI.

For any questions on the BBI or our monthly update meetings, call Raj Kudchadkar at 410-313-6376 or email rkudchadkar@howardcountymd.gov.

Foreign Born Information and Referral Network!

The Foreign Born Information and Referral Network, 5999 Harpers Farm Road, Suite 200-E in Columbia needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to greet clients, answer basic questions, make appointments and support the staff. Hours are 9am-1pm or 1-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. Other times may be considered. For more information, call 410-992-1923 x 14.

Give the Gift of Independence!

Neighbor Ridge launched its volunteer-based transportation service in 2004 with the mission to decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County's older residents. Today, its dedicated volunteers provide an average of 1,000 trips per month for medical appointments, shopping, social outings, personal care and business, religious services, volunteer activities and other day-to-day needs.

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices and daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring their children along for a wonderful experience. Please contact Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer or Rosemary Noble at 410-884-RIDE (7433) or email volunteer@neighborride.org for more information.

Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

TAX CREDITS: The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at

<http://countyofhowardmd.us/Services.aspx?id=6442458618> or by calling 410-313-4076. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Senior Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

Homeowners Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

Homestead Tax Credit: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

Energy Conservation Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:

<http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Community Associations Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Trash Collection Fee Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

Howard County Library www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22

FINALLY! Something to Do in Howard County www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52321251379

Youth Howard County www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47846991445&v=info&ref=ts

I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.



Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at 410-313-2200.

Do You Need Bulk-Item Pick-Up?

Bulk Trash Item pick-up has resumed but items must be scheduled by calling 410-313-6444 or visiting www.HowardCountyBulkPickup.org. These items typically do not fit in trash cans and could include mattresses, chairs, sofas, dressers, tables, etc. Bulk METAL Item pick-up began starting **October 1, 2011** and must be scheduled in advance by calling 410-313-6444. Items must be placed at the curb by 6am (no earlier than 6pm the night before). Please do not block mailboxes or fire hydrants. **NOTE:** It is illegal for anyone except Howard County's contractors to pickup scrap metal at the curb (Howard County Code 18.610)

"Guaranteed Ride Home" Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register online at www.commuterconnections.org or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).

Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- **Experiencing an Emergency?** Dial 9-1-1
- **Want to report an incident, non-emergency?** Call 410-313-2200
- **Need to report drug activity?** Call 410-290-3784 or email ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov
- **Want to make an anonymous tip** (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call 410-313-7867 or email GangTips@howardcountymd.gov
- **Want to report gun crimes?** Call 410-313-7867 or email CToler@howardcountymd.gov.
- **Do you need Victim Assistance?** Call 410-313-3712 or email KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov
- **Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey?** Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment. For more info, call the Special Operations Bureau at 410-313-3758 or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/aboutpolice.htm>
- **Want to start a Neighborhood Watch?** Call the Community Services Section at 410-313-4780.
- **Looking to prevent Auto Theft?** Helpful tips available at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=6442451452>
- **Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.?** Call 410-313-2780, email animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- **Are speeders in your neighborhood?** Consider the SMART Program initiative. Info available at www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd_smartprogram.htm
- Looking for personal safety tips? Visit www.co.ho.md.us/police/pd_personalsafety.htm
- **Interested in a Police Ride-Along?** Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- **Need a HCPD Spanish line?** Call 410-313-7807.
- **Interested in volunteering with the HCPD?** Call 410-313-2255
- **Interesting in HCPD Recruitment?** Call 410-313-4273.

In addition, the Columbia Association (CA) and the Howard County Police Department (HCPD) have joined forces to enhance the safety of our residents in Columbia and Howard County at large. Every month, safety tips and valuable information will be added to their newly formed website www.howardcountysafety.org. I encourage residents to continuously check this site for helpful hints to protect yourself and property and potentially reduce crime through your efforts!

Health Care Options For You or Your Family!

The “Door to HealthCare” provides for the consolidation of applications and application processes for the numerous health programs available for those who are under/uninsured. Individuals sit down with a counselor or work alone at a kiosk to enter personal data (including: family make0up, income, etc.) which will determine the programs for which you and/or family members are eligible. The information will quickly be transferred electronically into the proper application and the process is complete. Services provided include: MCHP, MA, PAC and the Healthy Howard Health Plan.

“The Door to HealthCare” is located to the rear of **7178 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia, MD**. For further information, call **410-988-3737**.

Medicare Patients – Looking for a Local Doctor!

The Medicare.gov site is the place to find information about Medicare. The webpage provides detailed information about the basics of Medicare, resources, preventative health care and much more. If you’re looking for a local doctor who accepts Medicare, visit www.Medicare.gov/find-a-doctor. Fill in your zipcode and any preferences you might have and instantly you will be given a list of providers in your area! For more details, call **1-800-MEDICARE**.

How and When to Use the Emergency Room!

Remember in Howard County, there are a number of affordable alternatives to the Emergency Room if you are ill (coughs, colds, ear infections, minor burns, strains/sprains), but **not** experiencing a medical emergency. These “minute clinics” are a great resource to receive medical attention on a weekend, late night, or simply when your regular physician cannot see you. Many have extended and weekend hours and do not require appointments. Most accept insurance but please call the provider/clinic for details.

For additional information or a list of providers, contact our Health Department online at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/Departments.aspx?ID=290> or call **410-313-6300**.

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland and empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit their website online at www.grassrootscrisis.org. The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, visit <http://countyofhowardmd.us/ResidentialRecycling.htm> or call **410-313-6444**. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call 410-313-7678 or visit <http://countyofhowardmd.us/departments.aspx?ID=815>.

Domestic Violence Center to Expand its Sexual Assault Services

The Domestic Violence Center (DVC) is pleased to announce a collaborative effort with the Howard County Police Department and the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) to expand DVS's sexual assault services with the hire of a Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Clinician who will be based at the CAC. For more details, call **410-997-0304** or visit www.dvcenter.org.

At-Large Members Needed for Community Advisory Council!

The Community Advisory Council to the Board of Education is currently seeking at-large members for the coming school year. The council sponsors educational programming for members and provides the opportunity to study and have input into curriculum, educational policy, redistricting and budget.

The committee meets at **7:30pm** the third Tuesday of each month at the Department of Education, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD. At-large members serve a two-year term to begin in August 2011. For more information, please call **410-313-6682** or email tjmallo@verizon.net.

Alzheimer's Early-Stage Programs Now Available!

The Alzheimer's Early-Stage Social Club meets Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00am-1:00pm. Pre-screening is required. To reserve your space and/or for pre-screening, call **Judy Miller** at **410-313-5441**. For more information on the Alzheimer's association, call **1-800-272-3900** or visit www.alz.org/maryland.

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To Schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: **1-800-506-5806**.

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/DisplayPrimary.aspx?ID=4294969242>. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-2005.

View the Council's Current Legislation and Calendar and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. To view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/Legislative_Pending.htm. Council meetings open to the public and I encourage you to join us. A list of upcoming meetings can be found online at <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Departments.aspx?ID=4294967600>.

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http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm

I Want to Hear From You!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email or fax.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. Click on the following link for the Council's calendar of meetings http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC_Legislative_CouncilCalendar.htm

RECYCLE your old TV's!

The Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services would like to remind residents to recycle analog TV's rather than throw them away. Options: Alpha Ridge Landfill Resident's Convenience Area open 8am-4pm Mon-Sat and Best Buy's Customer Take-Back Program. For more info, call 410-313-6444.

"Build more bridges and fewer walls."